

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:685

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2011

LOKPAL BILL

Bais Shri Ramesh;M.Thambidurai Dr. ;Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram ;Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao;Patil Shri A.T. Nana;Singh Shri Vijay Bahadur;Solanki Shri Makhansingh

Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has prepared draft Lokpal Bill;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has held any discussion with the members of the civil society, political parties and State Governments;
- (d) if so, the details regarding the level of consensus;
- (e) the time by which the proposed Bill will be introduced/passed; and
- (f) the status on the issue of bringing in the Prime Minister under the purview of Lokpal?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. The draft Lokpal Bill, 2011 seeks to establish an institution of Lok Pal for dealing with complaints of corruption against public functionaries in high places. The draft Bill provides, inter-alia, for:-

- (1) establishment of an institution of Lokpal with its own investigation and prosecution wing,
- (2) conferring the Lokpal with powers of civil court for enforcement of attendance, etc.,
- (3) empowering the Lokpal to make searches and seizures and also to attach property which, prima facie, has been acquired by corrupt means.

(c) and (d): The Government had constituted a Joint Drafting Committee on 8th April, 2011 to prepare a draft of a Lokpal Bill, with five nominee Ministers of the Government of India and five nominees of Shri Anna Hazare, including himself. The Government also held discussions with political parties. While there is a general consensus on the need to establish a strong and effective institution of Lokpal, there is a divergence of views on issues relating to the scope of the Bill. Some of the major issues on which there is divergence of views are :-

- (i) Should there be a single enactment providing for Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayuktas in the State ?
- (ii) Should the Prime Minister and Judges of the Supreme Court/High Courts be brought within the purview of the Lokpal?
- (iii) Should the conduct of Members of Parliament inside Parliament (speaking or voting in the House) be brought within the purview of the Lokpal?

(e) : The Cabinet in its meeting held on 28.07.2011 has approved the draft Lokpal Bill, 2011 which is proposed to be introduced in the present Monsoon Session of Parliament.

(f) : The Bill proposes to include, within the purview of the Lokpal, the Prime Minister after he has demitted office.